

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-20 and 23-34 are pending in the application, with claims 15, 18, and 34 being the independent claims. Claims 1-14 were previously canceled. Claims 21 and 22 are currently sought to be canceled. Claims 15, 27, and 34 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 22 is indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 15, from which claim 22 depends, has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 22.

Allowed claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 18 and 23-33. Applicants note that the term "circuit" in claim 27 has been removed to eliminate an ambiguity in the claim as originally drafted.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 15-17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,886,986 to Watanabe (hereinafter Watanabe). Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to include the allowable features of claim 22. Accordingly, the rejection is moot. Applicants note that

the term "circuit" as it appeared in claim 22 has been removed to eliminate an ambiguity in the claim as originally drafted.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 19, 20, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,068 to Forbes *et al.* (hereinafter Forbes). Independent claim 34 has been amended similarly to independent claim 15. Independent claim 34, as amended, is patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 15, as amended.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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